

From: E. Dekkers
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 9:23am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Miss,

I'm a 31-year old Dutch electronic engineer. I spend a lot of time in computers generally and have build up much knowledge of computers.

In time I became to love computers and hate Microsoft. In my opinion Microsoft slowed down the computer evolution and made only money of it. I can write many books about Microsoft but I guess you haven't got the time to read that now so here is a short impression how Microsoft became a monopolised.

During my education in the 80ies I had a personal computer called an Amiga. That computer could do anything that a PC can do now these days. I chose in 1986 for an electronic engineering education because I thought Microsoft couldn't keep the consumers dumb and I hoped that competitors would come with better marketing plans so that the consumers could see what computers really could do. At those years Microsoft earned a lot of money by mastering the marketing techniques and keeping the consumer dumb. Microsoft monopolised the computer industry by copying an operating system and pulling all the commonly used software like word-processors and spreadsheets towards them. All the products of Microsoft have many flows (called bugs) in it a specially the operating systems like Windows and on top of all every software of competitors didn't work properly on Windows systems. If this is don on porpoise is not easy to make hard when Microsoft never made the source-code Windows public. In the early days you had the Wordperfect word-processors, Netscape and Opera browser, Lotus123 spreadsheet programs. Where are those software companies now? In those days I already find that software companies a specially Operating system builders should stay in the terrain the government approved them to operate in.

Like I sad I can write books about Microsoft. With other engineers I can explain this easy but for non-technicians you can only give a simplified example like this:

Imagine when a big car company (Microsoft) has all the oil refineries and they could make a kind of petrol (operating system), that nobody know what precisely was in it (millions of line of source code never made public).

Then their cars (application software) would work fine but every other car manufacturers could not make cars that drive properly on their fuel. Then they (Microsoft) could sell expensive tools (design software) and education (Microsoft certificates) to competitor car manufactures. They could easily change the fuel (faster and more stable then before as they say) every year so you will have to buy a new car every year.

For computer users witch the majority of them are non-technical a demonstration on a 15 year old computer will demonstrate quickly how Microsoft didn't gave the users better products or technology but how they only found a perfect way in selling upgrades and "new" products.

I hope that my letter is understood and contributes in setting the software industry on the right track by the government so that the consumers and the industry can profit healthy competition.

Best regards,

Ing. E. Dekkers
Sweelincklaan 250
5012BA Tilburg
The Netherlands

P.S. Sorry if my letter isn't good readable but my English is a bit rusty.